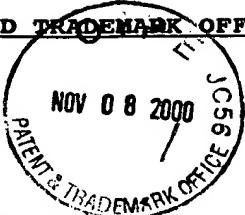


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Richard Niccolai
Serial No.: 09/656,805
Filed: September 7, 2000
Title: "METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING HEARING AIDS, AND A HEARING AID"
Docket No.: 32955



SECTION
024077
10326
PATENT

LETTER

Asst. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

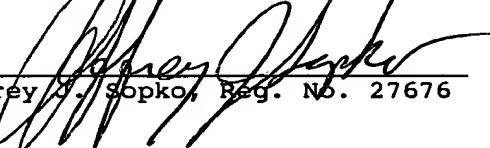
Attention: Box Missing Parts

Sir/Madam:

Applicant encloses herewith the required Declaration and Power of Attorney. A check for \$130.00 is enclosed to cover the late filing fee surcharge for the enclosed declaration. Applicant has not yet received a "Notice to File Missing Parts of Application".

If there are any further fees resulting from this communication not covered by the enclosed check, or if no check was enclosed, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 32955.

Respectfully submitted,
PEARNE & GORDON LLP

By 
Jeffrey J. Sopko, Reg. No. 27676

526 Superior Avenue, East
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1484
(216) 579-1700

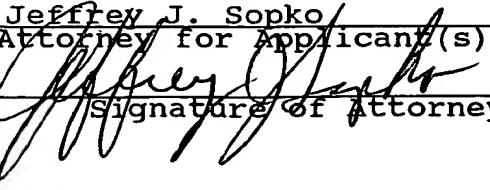
November 6, 2000

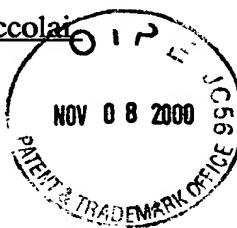
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date indicated below.

Jeffrey J. Sopko
Name of Attorney for Applicant(s)

11/6/00

Date


Signature of Attorney

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION** Submitted with Initial Filing Submitted after Initial Filing
(Surcharge (37 CFR 1.16(e)) required)Attorney Docket No.: 32955Application Number: 09/656,805First Named Inventor: Richard NiccolaiFiling Date: September 7, 2000

Group Art Unit: _____

Examiner Name: _____

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

A METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING HEARING AIDS, AND A HEARING AID

the specification of which (check only one item below)

 is attached hereto,

OR

 was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) 09/07/2000 as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number 09/656,805 and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint each of the following as my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Charles B. Gordon, Reg. No. 16923
Richard H. Dickinson, Jr., Reg. No. 18622
Thomas P. Schiller, Reg. No. 20677
David B. Deioma, Reg. No. 22841
Joseph J. Corso, Reg. No. 25845
Howard G. Shimola, Reg. No. 26232

Jeffrey J. Sopko, Reg. No. 27676
John P. Murtaugh, Reg. No. 34226
James M. Moore, Reg. No. 32923
David E. Spaw, Reg. No. 34732
Michael W. Garvey, Reg. No. 35878

Address all correspondence to Customer Number 000,116.

Please direct all correspondence and inquiries to David E. Spaw at (216) 579-1700.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

(1) Inventor Name (sole): Richard Niccolai
Signature: R. Niccolai
Date: October 24, 2000
Citizenship: CH
Residence (City, State, Country): Uster, Switzerland
Post Office Address: Zimikerstrasse 1, CH-8610 Uster, Switzerland